



REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been canceled, Claim 17 has been amended, and new Claims 24-37 have been added. Thus, Claims 17-37 are pending in the present application. In an election of species requirement mailed on November 5, 2002, the position was set forth that the present application contained claims directed to six patentably distinct species, which are: Species I, embodied in FIGURE 4; Species II, embodied in FIGURE 5; Species III, embodied in FIGURE 6; Species IV embodied in FIGURE 7; Species V, embodied in FIGURE 8; and Species VI, embodied in FIGURE 9. Accordingly, a requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect one of the patentably distinct species for prosecution was set forth.

In response to the election of species requirement, applicants elect Species II, embodied in FIGURE 5, for prosecution on the merits, without traverse. Applicants believe that Claims 17, 18, and 24-37 read on the elected species, with Claims 17, 18, 24-32, and 37 being generic to Species I-VI. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any remaining issues regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: December 5, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE DECEMBER 5, 2002

In the Claims:

17. (Amended) A method of treating an occluded vessel with a stent, comprising the acts of:

routing a delivery catheter having the stent mounted or restrained thereon to a position proximal to the diseased section of the vessel wherein the stent is of the type that includes: a core having an outer surface, means for increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods, and means for establishing a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the visibility increasing means is isolated from a patient's blood [a radio-opaque inner layer disposed onto at least a portion of the outer surface of the core, and a bio-compatible outer layer, the outer layer covering at least a portion of the radio-opaque inner layer to reduce contact between the radio-opaque material and blood or tissue within the diseased vessel];

deploying the stent from the delivery catheter;

expanding the stent into abutment against the interior lining of the diseased vessel so as to provide a support mechanism to prevent closure of the vessel.

Claims 1-16 have been canceled.

Claims 24-37 have been added.

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